



MCOT News

Welcome to the April 2011 edition of The Multicultural Council of Tasmania newsletter

Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to mcot@tassie.net.au
Please email or phone us on 6231 5067 if you would like to contribute items for the newsletter. The deadline for each month's issue is the first Monday of the relevant month.

MCOT NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Next Council Meeting](#)
- [Guest Speaker](#)
- [April Days](#)
- [United Nations](#)

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

- [Lithuanian Community](#)
- [Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism Inc](#)
- [Scandinavian Association](#)
- [Dutch Australian Society](#)

GENERAL NOTICES

- [Media Release – Chris Bowen \(Minister for Immigration & Citizenship\)](#)
- [Gearing Up Expo](#)
- [2011 Census](#)
- [2011 Volunteering Tasmania “Changing our World” Conference](#)
- [AMRAP/NEMBC](#)
- [Cricket Australia](#)
- [MoneySmart](#)
- [TASCROSS survey](#)
- [Men's Learning Forum](#)
- [Seniors Morning Movies](#)
- [Swap It Don't Stop It Campaign](#)

MCOT News and Updates

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania will be held on the 20th April 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Acacia Room at the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Molle Street, Hobart. Guests welcome!

Guest Speaker

Ruth McArdle, the head of the Tasmanian Census team is the guest speaker at the next council meeting. The title of the presentation will be: *Census for a Brighter Future*.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is conducting the Census of Population and Housing on Tuesday 9 August 2011. Everyone in Australia on Census night needs to complete the Census, even if they are not a citizen or resident. The Census asks for information about ancestry, country of birth, religion, and primary language spoken at home, to help capture a full and accurate picture of Australia's cultural diversity. Understanding the origins of the people who call Australia home is essential for developing policies and services that reflect the needs of our society. The ABS has put in place strategies to support people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The presentation during the meeting of the 20th April will highlight the importance of the Census to the community and outline the multilingual support available in Tasmania to complete the form.

April Days

- 3 **Daylight Saving Ends**
Independence Day (*Senegal*)
- 10 **National Youth Week** (10 – 18 April)
- 16 Queen's Birthday (*Denmark*)
- 17 National Day (*Syrian Arab Republic*)
- 18 National Day (*Zimbabwe*)
- 22 Good Friday
- 25 Anzac Day
Easter Monday
Liberation Day (*Italy*)
- 26 Union Day (*Republic of Tanzania*)
Easter Tuesday
- 27 Freedom Day (*South Africa*)
National Day (*Togo*)
Independence Day (*Sierra Leone*)
- 30 National Day (*Netherlands*) (for 2012, change this to Queens Day)

[Top](#)

United Nations

The United Nations has declared that 2011 is the:

- International Year of Chemistry
- International Year of Forests
- International Year for the people of African descent
- International Year of Youth

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

Lithuanian Community

Daina Concert - Lithuanian Choir from Sydney with a special performance from Polish Concert Pianist Wojciech Wisniewski , Saturday 21 May 2011 , 6 p.m. at the Polish Hall, Main Road , New Town. Cost of \$30 per person includes a two course meal. All welcome. RSVP by 30th April to Merv Kozikas 62725076.

Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism Inc

The Buddhist community will celebrate the Bathing Buddha Holy Ceremony on 8th May 2011. All welcome at 9.30am in Collins St.

Scandinavian Association

Erik Madsen said the Scandinavian Society will celebrate their 163rd anniversary on 11th June with a dinner dance at the Italian Club. Tickets are \$50 each. There will be gluhwein and herrings and a three course dinner.

[Top](#)

Dutch Australian Society "Abel Tasman" Inc.

Abel Tasman Art Prize 2010

The Abel Tasman Art Prize winner for 2010 is a 19 year old, former St Michael's Collegiate School student, **Olivia Moroney**. Her work titled *Journey's End* was painted with acrylic on canvas. Olivia said her work related to a number of journeys, firstly of Abel Tasman and his sighting and claiming of this island, secondly James Cook, more than 100 years later when the British settled on mainland Australia and finally her own journey through life.

Eighteen year old **Alisha Watkins** of The Friends School took out the People's Choice Award. The Abel Tasman Art Prize for southern Tasmanian Year 11 and 12 students up to 20 years of age was established to celebrate the bond which exists between the Netherlands and Tasmania and, in particular, to foster the Sister-City relationship between Grootegast and Kingston. Abel Tasman was born in the Grootegast area. This is an annual Art Prize, but held alternately in Tasmania and the Netherlands. The inaugural prize was held in Tasmania in 2000. The prize is a trip to the Netherlands, sponsored by the Kingborough and

Grootegast municipalities. The winner's artwork will be acquired by the Kingborough Council. The theme of the Art Prize is "Journeys". Tasman's epic voyage into the unknown is symbolic of the journeys ordinary folk may experience in their lifetime, be they physical or metaphorical.

Channel Museum

The Dutch Australian Society reports in their Tasman Telegraph newsletter that the long awaited Channel Museum should be available to them to prepare their displays after the end of June.

It has been a long time coming but the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. We look forward to the opening of the display of the Dutch Migrant record which will be housed in the museum.

[Top](#)

GENERAL NOTICES

Media release - 5 April 2011

Chris Bowen MP - Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

New short-term detention centre in Tasmania

A Defence facility in Pontville, in southern Tasmania, will be the site of a temporary new detention centre to accommodate up to 400 single adult men, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, announced today. Located about 30 kilometres from Hobart, the site will be brought online next month, subject to the availability of local contractors. It will initially accommodate about 250 people.

The centre will consist of Army dormitory buildings, with supporting structures brought in as needed. The centre's level of amenity will be in line with other immigration detention centres on the Australian mainland.

Mr Bowen said the Pontville site was a short-term response while work is completed on detention accommodation at Wickham Point in Darwin, and Northam in Western Australia.

"The Government has acknowledged the pressures on our detention facilities and this new accommodation will help to relieve the strain on the system," Mr Bowen said.

"Following the incidents and loss of detention capacity at Christmas Island, Pontville presents an appropriate contingency option for detention accommodation."

The Pontville detention centre is expected to be operational until October 2011.

Mr Bowen said Pontville had appropriate infrastructure in place and with minor works could be set up relatively quickly.

"This location will allow the department and detention service provider to secure services, goods and employees from the Hobart region, providing an economic benefit to the local area," he said.

"My department will be required to upgrade and install security at the site and install additional buildings."

Capital costs for the required upgrades will be about \$15 million.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will only utilise a part of the overall parcel of land. The centre is not expected to have any adverse effect on Defence operations, local graziers or nearby residents, however DIAC will engage in further consultation with locals to ensure any impact is minimised.

"A community reference group will also be established as a liaison point for the department, local and state government, and members of the community to assist with and keep informed on the planning and establishment of the facility," Mr Bowen said.

Media Contact: Bill Kyriakopoulos 0400 510 802

Stakeholder Q&A – Tasmanian detention centre

Issue:

Stakeholder Q&A to support the April 5 announcement of a new detention centre at Pontville in Tasmania.

[Top](#)

Talking points:

What is being built and where?

- A Defence facility in Pontville, in southern Tasmania, will be the site of a new detention centre to accommodate up to 400 single adult men.
- Located about 30km from Hobart, the site is a suitable location for a temporary detention facility and will be brought online soon after Easter, contingent on the availability of local contractors. It will initially accommodate about 250 people.

Who will this centre accommodate?

- The centre will be used for low-risk irregular maritime arrivals and will consist of Army dormitory buildings, with supporting structures brought in as needed. The centre's level of amenity is commensurate with other immigration detention centres on the Australian mainland.
- The site is a short-term response while works continue on other detention accommodation at Wickham Point in Darwin and Northam in Western Australia.

How will it be decided who is housed there? Will it be based on nationalities/case status?

- Decisions on client placement will continue to be made based on the individual circumstances of detainees and operational considerations.
- Only adult men will be accommodated at Pontville.

Will clients identified as ring leaders in the recent disturbance on Christmas Island be accommodated at Pontville?

- Clients identified as ringleaders in the recent disturbances on Christmas Island will not be accommodated at Pontville.
- Pontville will be used to accommodate identified, low-risk clients.

Why is Pontville being used?

- The government has acknowledged that existing detention facilities are under pressure and the new accommodation will help to relieve this while previously announced detention accommodation at Northam and Wickham Point comes online.
- Pontville already had infrastructure in place and, with minor works, could be stood up relatively quickly.

Will there be sufficient security?

- Pontville will be a secure facility appropriate for accommodating single men.
- The facility will not accommodate high risk clients and appropriate security arrangements will be in place.
- These include built infrastructure and staffing, perimeter fencing, internal fencing, electronic security measures and security staff.
- The department's contracted services provider will be responsible for security arrangements at Pontville.
- The detention services provider will also, as part of its contracted duties, have in place appropriate contingency planning with the police and other emergency services.

What about the effect on nearby residents?

- The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will only be using a part of the overall parcel of land. It is not expected to have any adverse effect on Defence operations, local graziers or nearby residents.
- The Department will establish a Community Reference Group to provide a forum for liaison between DIAC, local and state Government, and members of the community to assist in the planning and establishment of the facility.

Will people still go to Christmas Island in the first instance?

- Yes. It is government policy that all initial processing including medical checks will occur on Christmas Island.

What consultation with the local community has taken place?

- The Minister has been in contact with the Tasmanian Premier and with the local Federal Member.
- The Department will establish a Community Reference Group to provide a forum for liaison between DIAC, local and state Government, and members of the community to assist in the planning and establishment of the facility.

Will this help local businesses and are there benefits for the region as a whole?

- The local region and local businesses will benefit from the commissioning of the Pontville facility.
- Any construction at the site (such as the erection of fencing and installation of extra buildings) will provide employment opportunities in the Pontville and Hobart region.
- When the facility is operational the need for staff will be ongoing. The department will, where possible and practical, source services from the local community, such as the provision of food, maintenance, cleaning and general upkeep of the facility. This will have flow-on beneficial effects to the region, benefiting families and local businesses.
- The detention service provider, Serco, will engage staff from the local region

- There will also be a positive effect on the travel industry in the region, as any departmental staff travelling to the site from interstate on routine business will need to be accommodated in hotels, and will require hire cars when visiting the site.
- There has been real benefit to the remote community of Weipa in far north Queensland through the operation of the Scherger facility, both in terms of financial input to the community through the placement of staff and ancillary services at the Scherger facility, and through interactions between staff and clients and the local community.
- Similarly, Leonora and Derby in remote Western Australia have benefited from the facilities located there.

Will there be a negative effect on house values?

- In other locations of immigration detention facilities, including those facilities in capital cities, there has been no identifiable effect on property prices.

What impact will the facility have on local health or other services?

- The department is fully aware of the potential for services to be affected, so for this reason primary health services for clients at Pontville will be provided on site by International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), which is contracted by the department.
- IHMS will provide health care services to clients at Pontville, with the exception of emergency or specialist care.
- No local will be adversely affected and all health costs for Pontville detention clients will be met by the department.
- Dental services will be provided to detainees several days each month, subject to demand.

Who will fund the health services for the people in the facility?

- The Commonwealth.

What will be the impact on police and other emergency services?

- The government is concerned to ensure minimal effects on the local community, and will work closely with law enforcement and other emergency services in Tasmania.
- Once Pontville is operational, business continuity exercises covering various emergency situations will be undertaken involving the department, Serco and emergency services. This occurs at all immigration detention facilities.
- Ongoing meetings will be scheduled with both Tasmanian Police and Tasmanian Emergency Services.

Gearing Up: Living Your Potential Expo

Gearing Up: Living Your Potential Expo highlights the education, training, employment and recreational opportunities for people with a disability or health condition. They include a number of exhibitors, entertainment and hands-on interactive activities. Fun, informative and a must-do on your schedule for this year!!!

Launceston: 4th April at the Tailrace Centre

Burnie: 12th May at the Burnie Civic Centre

Hobart: 4th July at the Derwent Entertainment Centre

Check out the Gearing Up website www.ndcotas.com.au/gearingup to keep you updated about what is happening. Also you can follow the expo updates through Facebook

2011 Census

The 2011 Census will be held on Tuesday the 9th August 2011, marking 100 years of Census taking in Australia.

2011 Census job opportunities

To help in the preparation and operation of the Census of Population and Housing, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is recruiting an army of over 8,200 Census Collectors in NSW.

With almost one in five Australians speaking almost 400 different languages other than English at home the ABS are looking for Collectors with bilingual skills who can provide assistance to those households.

Quality Collectors are vital to the success of the Census and the ABS needs to ensure Collectors are representative of their communities and can help us capture a full picture of Australia's diversity. We are looking from people from all cultural backgrounds, who are passionate about their local community and want to earn some extra money as well.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in a flexible short-term position, please apply online at

www.abs.gov.au/census or call 1800 420 182. Applications open 9 April and close on 5 May 2011.

When is the Census?

The ABS will be conducting the next Census of Population and Housing on Tuesday 9th August 2011.

What is the Census?

The Census aims to take a snapshot of Australia on Census night. It collects important information about Australia's population such as ancestry, religion, birthplace and languages spoken.

Why is the Census important?

Information collected in the Census is used by all levels of government, businesses and communities for planning and decision making about services.

To ensure the delivery of vital targeted services to specific cultural groups, it is important that everyone in Australia completed the Census on Census night even if you are not an Australian citizen or resident.

Does the ABS share my personal information with anyone else?

Absolutely not. No-one outside of the ABS will ever see your answers. The information you give about yourself and your family is completely private.

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 guarantees the confidentiality of personal information and legally binds staff, past or present, never to release personal information. Past and present ABS staff can be fined or jailed if they break this law.

Is the Census compulsory?

Yes, the Census is compulsory under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. It is important that everyone takes part, as Census information is used to make decisions on services and facilities.

Volunteering Tasmania

Early Bird Registration is now open for the 2011 Volunteering Tasmania "Changing our World" Conference. The 2011 VT "Changing our World Conference" will be held over 2 days during National Volunteer Week, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th May at The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel. The conference will feature a mixture of paper presentations and workshops relating to the theme Inspire, Lead and Innovate. Amongst the speakers we are pleased to welcome International Guest, David Rendall.

The program promises to challenge, engage and inspire you to explore issues and attitudes towards volunteering. There will be opportunities to network and share information as we explore what managing volunteering is all about and how we can continue to protect and grow the contribution of volunteers into the future.

The conference will appeal to volunteer coordinators and decision makers and leaders in our community. It will involve a range of sessions, including workshops, debates and forums which explore issues and attitudes and which will actively involve conference participants. For more information,

<http://volunteeringtas.org.au/for-organisations/conference-2011/>

[Top](#)

AMRAP/NEMBC

The Australian Music Radio Airplay Project (AMRAP) is inviting Australian musicians from diverse cultures to join Airlt! Airlt is community radio's exclusive Australian music catalogue.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get your music played on Australian community radio stations.

Any culturally diverse musician residing in Australia is eligible for free national distribution via Airlt!

Apply for Airlt today at www.amrap.org/emapply. For more info contact Anthea Sidiropoulos

AMRAP Ambassador, Ethnic & Multicultural Music Initiative on 03 9486 9543 | em@amrap.org.au

The Ethnic & Multicultural Music Initiative supports musicians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds within Australia to get their music to Australian community radio stations.

AMRAP has partnered with The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council (NEMBC) for this Ethnic & Multicultural Music Initiative.

Which musicians can apply for AMRAP'S EM Initiative?

Musicians who identify as being from ethnic or multicultural communities within Australia are eligible to access the initiative. Eligibility is not based on the music genre. *We do not support the music industry myth that if you are a migrant you are categorised as 'world music'!* The initiative supports music of all genres.

AMRAP is funded to support contemporary (new) Australian music, but a musician's back catalogue of music may be accepted through the EM Initiative if the music hasn't been available to radio stations in Australia, or the musician performs live regularly.

What happens to the music when it gets added to Airlt?

Musicians can select how many categories they want their music to be available on the Airlt catalogue. Only registered community radio personnel and broadcasters can access and order music from Airlt. Music can

be ordered via internet download or on a CD and AMRAP incurs all costs to manufacture and distribute the music.

Music is catalogued under relevant music genres so music coordinators and broadcasters can find music that suits their taste. E.g. a Sudanese punk band will be added to punk alongside all the other great punk music. But your music can also be simultaneously catalogued under ethnic and multicultural music to show the range of multicultural music available and allow musicians to be identified with their language, culture and identity.

The musician receives monthly reports listing what stations and radio programs have ordered their music for Airplay. This enables the musician to follow up with radio stations/broadcaster for interviews or other opportunities. Selected musicians will also be featured on AMRAP's public website and we run a 'most ordered for airplay' chart on Airt that promotes popular music on the catalogue.

How can you help?

Please forward this information on to anyone that can encourage suitable musicians to apply. Musicians can apply for Airt right now via www.amrap.org/emapply.

For more information and assistance contact AMRAP's Ambassador Anthea Sidiropoulos at em@amrap.org.au or the NEMBC office on 03 9486 9549.

Media enquiries can be directed to the AMRAP Manager, Chris Johnson on manager@amrap.org.au or 02 9318 9618.

[Top](#)

Cricket Australia Multicultural Talent and Leadership Program

Cricket Australia is on a quest to find Australia's most talented multicultural cricketers. The Multicultural Talent and Leadership Program will provide an elite player performance environment to participants from various ethnic backgrounds to gain further cricket experience both on and off the field. All participants must be aged between 17 and 22 on July 1, 2012. For more information go to, www.cricket.com.au/MTLP

Welcome to MoneySmart

Today the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) launched a new website called MoneySmart to help people make smart choices about their personal finances.

MoneySmart is for all Australians – young or old, rich or poor, investing or paying off debt.

The website offers free, independent guidance so people can make the best choices for their money.

ASIC has been active in financial literacy for many years. ASIC's previous consumer websites were FIDO and Understanding Money. Each was a great source of financial information for many years, with simple steps and basic calculators to help people sort out their money.

MoneySmart replaces these two websites, combining the best features of both and adding much more.

Please link to MoneySmart and spread the word about it among your networks. Let us know if you'd like any material for upcoming newsletters or articles.

You might also like to update any references or links on your own site to FIDO or Understanding Money, so they now refer to MoneySmart. We can send you links to or details of specific pages or calculators.

We welcome your feedback about MoneySmart. Tell us what you think by email to feedback@moneysmart.gov.au or use the feedback button at the end of each webpage.

Make MoneySmart one of your 'favourites' and visit us often to get your finances in better shape.

<http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/>

[Top](#)

Call for input: Research into how much compliance is costing NGOs

TasCOSS encourages all community service organisations to complete this survey.

Did you know that there are **over 50 different sets of quality or service standards** applied to the community services and health NGO sector?

We all know that significant amounts of **staff time, money and organisational resources** go in to assessing, complying and reporting against standards, but most of the not for profit sector's information is anecdotal. Help put some hard facts around the anecdotal evidence and inform governments just how much this piece of red tape is costing our organisations.

Give a few minutes of your time to help complete this important piece of research. The survey will be close on 15 April, 2011.

This project is being conducted by Management Support Online NGO Services and Bradfield Nyland Group as an independent piece of research for the community services sector. Management Support Online NGO

Services and Bradfield Nyland Group specialise in governance, management and operations for NGOs and provide online services to the Australian not for profit sector.

Men's Learning & Wellbeing: A One Day Forum,

Hosted by Adult Learning Australia and the University of Ballarat Addressing Disadvantage in Education & Health Research Group in collaboration with Tasmanian Men's Sheds Association, and Rosny LINC

Monday April 18, 2011, 10 am - 3.30pm

ROSNY LINC (formerly Rosny Library) Bligh Street, Rosny, Tasmania

Program

- 10 am: Registration, Tea and Coffee
 - 10.30 am: Welcome and Introduction to the day (Greg Peart, ALA Board).
 - 10.50 – 11.15 am: "Why bother about men's learning and wellbeing?" (Jonathan Bedloe, Policy and Program Officer - Men's Health, Department of Health and Human Services).
 - 11.15 am-11.45 am: 'Lifelong Learning and Wellbeing' Dr Rob Mark, University of Strathclyde
- 11.45am-12 Coffee & Tea Break
- 12 -1.00pm: Break Out Sessions: 'What do we know from research and practice about what keeps men well and learning?' & Tasmanian Men's Sheds Association Meeting
- 1.00pm-1.45pm Lunch
- 1.45 - 2.15 pm: Overview of the spread and benefit of community men's sheds in Australia: John Waters, President, Tasmanian Men's Shed's Association
 - 2.15 – 2.30 pm: Men's Lifelong Learning in Community Houses, Tasmanian Association Community Houses
 - 2.30 - 2.45 pm: Engaging Men in Adult Education programs, (TBA)
 - 2.45 pm: 3.15 Men's learning through community organisations in Australia, Professor Barry Golding, University of Ballarat
 - 3.15 – 3.30 Key Messages from the day. Sally Thompson, CEO, Adult Learning Australia.

Registration is Necessary: Phone Raelene Hodge on 03 9314 4632 or email r.hodge@ala.asn.au

(Cost \$10 incl. lunch, payable on the day by cash or cheque only)

Other details available from: Sally Thompson on 0427677498 or s.thompson@ala.asn.au

Seniors morning movies

Village Cinemas Hobart, Eastlands, Glenorchy and Launceston are proud to present to all our seniors

This program will be available from Monday to Friday at 11am. Tickets are just \$7 and there is also the opportunity to purchase a cookie and an endless cup of coffee or tea for just \$3.

We look forward to seeing you and would appreciate if you could forward this on to all of your friends and family members.

[Top](#)

Swap It Don't Stop It

The Commonwealth Government has launched its 'Swap it don't stop it' campaign – a call to make easy, small, healthier lifestyle choices to reduce the risk of illness and disease. 'Swap It Don't Stop It' features Eric, an animated blue balloon character, likeable but overweight. On television, in print and on the radio, Eric will urge Australians to make some simple lifestyle changes to become healthier – for example, to swap big for small (portion control); swap often for sometimes (occasional treats); swap fried for fresh (nutritional quality); swap sitting for moving (physical activity); and swap watching for playing (physical activity).

Further information on the campaign, including fact sheets, can be found at www.australia.gov.au/swapit, and in the Department of Health and Ageing's [media release](#).

General MCoT Information

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